SOUTHERN FOREST PEST REPORTER

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY
SOUTHEASTERN AREA
DIVISION OF FOREST INSECT
AND DISEASE CONTROL
ZONE OFFICES
ASHEVILLE N.C.
MACON GA. ALEXANDRIA LA.

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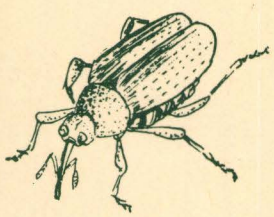

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

... Epidemic southern pine beetle populations on Federal land continue on the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina, on the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi and on the Big Thicket and Angelina Districts in Texas.

... On private land epidemic southern pine beetle populations continue in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia.

... Ips engraver beetle populations have increased to near epidemic proportions in Arkansas and North Carolina, probably due to insufficient rainfall.

... Oak wilt was detected for the first time in Scott County, Arkansas. Generally speaking, oak wilt infected trees in Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia continued near or below the 1965 level.

... Oak decline and mortality is increasing in northern Mississippi and the mountainous areas of Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia and Virginia.

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STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.

ALABAMA

Southern pine beetle populations throughout the Talladega National Forest have subsided and now appear to be near an endemic level. Recent evaluations show that the number of infested trees per thousand acres is 2.40 and 1.14 on the Shoal Creek and Oakmulgee Districts respectively. No active infestations were found on the Tuscaloosa and Talladega Districts. Operational surveys and chemical control are being continued on the Forest through the fall and winter months.

The beetle epidemic on private land in Jefferson, Walker, Blount, Shelby and St. Clair counties, Alabama, has subsided but heavy timber losses continue to occur. Salvage and/or chemical measures are being continued by some individual landowners.

A southern pine beetle outbreak has recently been reported in Lee County. The extent of this outbreak is unknown.

GEORGIA

Scattered endemic populations of southern pine beetle remain on the Tallulah and Chattooga Districts of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Endemic infestations continue on the Uncle Remus District of the Oconee National Forest and the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge.

Populations, considered to be endemic, exist on private land in northeastern and west-central Georgia. Control efforts are not being carried out in any of the Georgia infestation areas.

LOUISIANA

Southern pine beetle remains active in Allen, Calcasieu and East and West Feliciana Parishes. The most active area is the East and West Feliciana Parishes where an early July survey showed 41 infested trees per 1,000 acres. This is about 4 times the number of infested trees found in an April survey.

MISSISSIPPI

Activity of the southern pine beetle is high on National Forest and private land for the second straight year. A survey in August showed 7.92 infested trees per 1,000 acres on the Homochitto National Forest. The beetle was most active on private land in Wilkinson and Amite counties, but is also present in Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Claiborne, Copiah and Warren counties. Infestations are more widespread this year but are not as severe.

NORTH CAROLINA

Infestations continue at high levels in the upper Piedmont counties. The infestations seem to be confined to the areas where they have previously occurred. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

A population increase occurred on the Bigwoods Experimental Forest from a March 1966 level of 0.6 to a level of 11.2 infested trees per 1,000 acres. All active spots were salvaged immediately.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Southern pine beetle infestations are continuing at a low level on the Andrew Pickens District of the National Forests in South Carolina. Results of a recent survey indicate a present infestation level of 0.2 infested trees per M acres. Infestations were also detected on the Tyger and Enoree Districts, estimated population levels are 0.5 and 0.2 infested trees per M acres respectively.

The southern pine beetle developed into outbreak proportions on the Francis Marion National Forest during August. The present level of infestation is 16.8 infested trees per M acres.

TENNESSEE

Beetle infestations have declined on the Oak Ridge Atomic Energy Reservation. A January 1966 survey showed an estimated 1,262.8 infested trees per 1,000 acres of host type while an August survey revealed 0.73 infested trees per 1,000 acres. Cold weather in late January and intensive salvage operations contributed to the reduction in beetle populations.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

TEXAS

Southern pine beetle populations on private land became epidemic again this summer and reached their peak in June. Multiple spots observed on operational flights totaled 1,288 for June as compared to 739 a year ago. Biweekly detection flight reports show a steady decline of the number of spots observed throughout the summer.

Through August this year 2,962 spots containing a total of 84,631 infested trees were controlled as compared with 1,524 spots and 59,116 infested trees through September last year. (Texas Forest Service)

Southern pine beetle populations on the Big Thicket and Angelina Districts, National Forests in Texas, increased in early summer but started to decline by the end of June. Southern pine beetle was detected for the first time on the Yellowpine District of the Sabine National Forest.

VIRGINIA

High bark beetle populations continue to cause damage in the form of widely scattered small infestations throughout most of the epidemic areas of last year. New southern pine beetle infestation spots have been detected in Charles City, Chesterfield, Accomac, Essex, Campbell, Fluvanna, Amelia, Cumberland, Buckingham, Mecklenburg and Prince Edward counties. A summary of the bark beetle figures in Virginia for the period June 1965 through May 1966 shows that over $932,000 worth of pulp and timber were involved. This figure exceeded that of the previous year by $182,000. (Virginia Division of Forestry)

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus terebrans (Oliver)

ARKANSAS

An increase in activity by this pest has been noted during the summer, particularly along logging roads and in spots subjected to heavy drought stress. (Arkansas Pest Report)

LOUISIANA

Black turpentine beetle populations increased to unusual proportions this summer in some logged areas near Sulphur, Louisiana. Control and salvage operations are being carried out by some landowners.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

MISSISSIPPI — Black turpentine beetle continues to be a problem on cut-over areas in the Homochitto, Bienville, and DeSoto National Forests.

TEXAS — On private ownership, spotted areas of high mortality occurred in Orange County. In addition to logging operations making the area attractive to the beetles, blocked drainage ditches which caused stands to remain flooded was linked as a factor contributing to the infestation. (Texas Forest Service)

Activity on the National Forests in Texas is on the decline except on low sites in recently logged areas. Lakeshore campgrounds with high usage have heavy beetle activity. Above normal rainfall during the summer months kept beetle activity below that of 1965.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES, Ips spp.

ARKANSAS — There has been a marked increase in infestations by Ips spp. in some areas threatening to become locally epidemic. This situation resulted from extreme dry weather in early summer with effects now being sharply evident. The greatest activity ranges from the Sparkman-Holly Grove area to the Ouachita National Forest, from Mena to Danville. Up to 50 trees per spot have been attacked. The current favorable growing conditions and lateness of the season should result in suppression of Ips populations. (Arkansas Pest Report)

Ips avulsus was reported as becoming epidemic infesting spots of 5-50 trees on the Oden, Womble, Mena and Coldsprings Ranger Districts of the Ouachita National Forest.

NORTH CAROLINA — There is a tremendous increase in Ips avulsus activity in several of the lower Piedmont counties. Below normal precipitation is believed responsible for the increased activity. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

A recent survey of the Uwharrie National Forest revealed an outbreak of Ips avulsus. Populations of the black turpentine beetle are building up in the Ips infested trees. Salvage operations have been initiated to prevent further damage.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES (Cont'd)

AREA — Numerous scattered Ips infestations are present throughout the rest of the Southeastern Area but are considered normal for this time of year.

SEED AND CONE INSECTS

ARKANSAS — Two shortleaf pine seed production areas on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest were sprayed again this year. Dioryctria and Laspeyresia spp. are the primary attackers. Preliminary results show some reduction in cone damage.

LOUISIANA — Evaluations by the U. S. Forest Service on a longleaf pine seed production area on the Vernon District, Kisatchie National Forest, showed severe damage in both first-year cones by Dioryctria spp. and by Dioryctria and Laspeyresia spp. in second-year cones. On the Catahoula District, loblolly pine was not heavily attacked.

TEXAS — In Texas evaluations showed longleaf pine seed production areas suffered heaviest damage with loblolly next and shortleaf least. Dioryctria and Laspeyresia spp. were the primary insects causing damage.

PINE SAWFLIES, Neodiprion spp.

AREA — Localized outbreaks of the red-headed pine sawfly, Neodiprion lecontei (Fitch) have been reported in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina and Virginia.

LOUISIANA — An unidentified pine sawfly was found on mature loblolly pine in Rapides Parish in August.

WEEVILS

NORTH CAROLINA — Pine reproduction in the pocosin area continues to be heavily damaged by the pales weevil, Hylobius pales (Hbst.). A pilot control project designed to reduce this damage was initiated in the spring of 1966, using two applications of DDT - one a 5 percent nursery spray, the other a one pound per

acre granular application when feeding reached the 5 percent level. Monthly evaluations indicate promising results.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

ALABAMA & GEORGIA — The elm leaf beetle, Galerucella xanthomelaena (Schr.) and the larger elm leaf beetle, Monocesta coryli (Say) defoliated numerous elm trees throughout the Piedmont region of Alabama and Georgia.

AREA — Moderate infestations of the fall webworm, Hyphantria cunea (Drury) are occurring on susceptible species throughout the Area. Populations of this insect are generally heavier in Arkansas this year than in 1965.

TEXAS — Control measures were taken against the cottonwood leaf beetle, Chrysomela scripta, in June after it was found damaging trees in a 14-acre cottonwood plantation in Liberty County, Texas, and a 1300-acre plantation in Montgomery County. Control was accomplished by aerial application of insecticide. (Texas Forest Service)

VIRGINIA — Two localized infestations of the fall cankerworm comprising about 400 acres in Bedford and Nelson counties have declined from 1965 levels. A larval microsporidian disease, believed to be a new record in this insect, was detected and is probably a primary factor in the decline. Other contributing factors include parasites and a late spring frost. A further decrease in damage is expected in 1967.

Populations of the hardwood looper, Phigalia titea (Cramer) on the Lee District of the George Washington National Forest have decreased from 1965 levels.

An oak leaf tier, Croesia semipurpurana (Kearfott), continues to contribute to scarlet oak mortality in the James River Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. A late frost coupled with prevailing drought conditions is also believed partially responsible for the mortality.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

OAK WILT, Ceratocystis fagacearum (Bretz) Hunt

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas oak wilt survey showed a definite decrease in number of active spots over the last 2 years. Sharp County continues as the "hot spot" with 22 active infection centers containing 88 infected trees and 19 infected sprouts. (Arkansas State Plant Board)

An aerial survey in June 1966 of the Ouachita National Forest extended the known range of oak wilt into Scott County.

KENTUCKY

Two oak wilt infected trees were detected in Fleming and Clay counties during a 15 county oak wilt trend survey. This survey utilizes a one-square-mile permanent plot in each of the 15 counties and is designed to show spread and intensification.

NORTH CAROLINA

The oak wilt survey in North Carolina detected a few more infected trees than in 1965, but is considerably below the average for the past 10 years. Infected trees were found in Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, and Madison counties.

VIRGINIA

The oak wilt survey and control program in Virginia was completed in August. The survey showed 135 wilting trees in 67 spots in 12 counties. (Virginia Division of Forestry)

The oak wilt control crew on the George Washington National Forest treated 121 infected trees in 63 centers.

OAK DECLINE - CAUSE UNKNOWN

ARKANSAS & MISSISSIPPI

A decline of various oak species has been reported and observed over much of the central and northern parts of both States. Drought may be a contributing factor.

ALABAMA & GEORGIA

Many reports have been received from various sources on the decline of red oaks in Alabama and Georgia.

KENTUCKY — Scarlet oak mortality has been reported from several areas of eastern Kentucky.

VIRGINIA — Extensive areas of oak mortality, chiefly scarlet oak, are present on the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests. The heaviest damage is present on the Broadway and James River Districts of the George Washington National Forest. Recent examination of affected stands revealed heavy infestations by a species of Agrilus, probably the two lined chestnut borer, Agrilus bilineatus in the dying trees. Evidences of insect defoliation were also detected which suggest that this condition may be the result of an early spring defoliation and a moisture stress during mid-summer.

More detailed information can be obtained by writing to the Division of Forest Insect and Disease Control Zone Offices listed below or to the Atlanta Office:

ZONES	FOR STATES OF:
Zone 1 William M. Ciesla Zone Leader P. O. Box 1211 Asheville, North Carolina 28802 Tel. No. AC 704 254-0961, Ext. 625	Kentucky North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Virginia
Zone 2 William H. Padgett Zone Leader P. O. Box 1077 Macon, Georgia 31202 Tel. No. AC 912 746-3531	Alabama Florida Georgia
Zone 3 Henry H. Galusha, Jr. Zone Leader 2500 Shreveport Highway Pineville, Louisiana 71360 Tel. No. AC 318 445-6511, Ext. 694	Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Oklahoma Texas